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FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

VACATION SCHOOLS  
COMMITTEE

TO THE

Court of Common Council

OF THE

CITY OF HARTFORD, CONN.,

FOR THE

YEAR OF 1901.







CHARLES G. STONE,  
Chairman Vacation Schools Committee.

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# VACATION SCHOOLS COMMITTEE,

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15/11/93

## VACATION SCHOOLS COMMITTEE.

Committee on Education of the Court of Common Council.

Alderman CHARLES G. STONE, Chairman.

Councilman ALFRED P. CLIFFORD, Secretary.

Councilman HOWARD A. CAMP, Treasurer.

HON. ALEXANDER HARBISON, Mayor of Hartford.

Appointed by the Civic Club of Hartford.

MISS LUCY A. PERKINS, MISS ANNIE E. TRUMBULL,

Appointed by the Board of School Visitors.

MR. CHARLES L. AMES,  
Principal of the Brown School.  
MR. WILBUR F. GORDY,  
Principal Second North School.

Appointed by the Board of Park Commissioners.

**MR. WILLIS I. TWITCHELL,** President of the Park Board and Principal West Middle School.



## REPORT OF THE VACATION SCHOOLS COMMITTEE.

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*To the Honorable Court of Common Council:*

The committee appointed by the Court of Common Council to have charge of the "Vacation Schools" which were conducted under City supervision and at City expense for the first time this year, respectfully present their report :

It includes an account of the work done in the schools under the superintendence of Miss Francesca A. Henke, the Reading Rooms under the superintendence of Miss C. M. Hewins, the Kindergarten at Riverside Park, the Play-ground at Pope Park, The Hartford Civic Camp conducted by Miss Ella Parish at Chateaugay, New York, the School Gardens conducted by Messrs. Stewart N. Dunning and H. D. Hemenway and the Financial Report of the Committee.

The vacation school movement originated in the desire of a few citizens to provide other influences than those of the streets and alleys of our tenement districts for the children during the long summer vacation.

The first vacation school in Hartford was opened in the summer of 1897 by the ladies of the Civic Club. They secured the kindergarten rooms of the Brown School and formed classes of scholars whose parents desired that their children should be at school rather than running loose on the streets. The school was a success from the commencement and the work done was a source of both pleasure and profit to the children who were able

to gain admittance. The facilities were limited and less than one-fourth of the children who applied could be accommodated. The number registered was one hundred and forty-five. The number of applicants a little over seven hundred.

The success of the work in the first year led to its continuance and rapid expansion in the years following. The labor and expense was cheerfully borne by the members and friends of the Civic Club.

In the year 1900 it was decided to ask the City Government to undertake the supervision and maintenance of the schools. A public hearing on the proposition was largely attended and the petition of the Civic Club was strongly supported by Teachers, Clergymen, Educators and prominent Citizens.

In 1901, The Board of School Visitors and the Committee on Education of the Court of Common Council gave a public hearing on the control and management of the Vacation Schools by the City. There was no opposition to the proposition.

The Joint Committee reported on the Vacation Schools to the Court of Common Council as follows :

*To the Honorable Court of Common Council of the City of Hartford:*

GENTLEMEN :—The Joint Standing Committee on Education and the Board of School Visitors, to whom at your meeting of Jan. 14, 1901, was referred the following resolution :

“ *Resolved*, That the present system of Vacation Schools which has been carried on under the direction of the Civic Club shall be made a part of the general public school system of the City;” having held a public hearing on said resolution and having thoughtfully considered it in joint conference, beg leave to report :

That at said public hearing, which was fully attended by men and women in close touch with the civic and educational interests of our City, the need of, and the advantages flowing from, a system of vacation schools were clearly presented. It was also the opinion of the majority of those who spoke upon the subject that such a

system of schools should not only be maintained at the expense of the City, but also administered by the City through some one of its agencies. The advisability of making them a part of the public school system, however, was seriously questioned by those especially qualified to pass upon the subject.

The main object of vacation schools is to provide the children during the summer months in the congested sections of the City, where the home life is narrow and the dirty public streets offer the only play grounds, with environments that are pure and healthful, and to bring such children under influences that make for good.

This as is generally well known, is accomplished by enrolling the children in indoor and outdoor schools so-called. The former are held in cool school buildings, central to the sections mentioned and the children are occupied, for three hours of the morning, with physical exercises and drills, and instructed in manual work, such as paper cutting, wood-working, painting, sewing, weaving, and other light exercises which train the eye and hand, and given helpful talks on cleanliness, civic virtues and patriotism. The latter are held in the school yards and public parks, and the children are taught various games and given opportunity for healthful play.

That these schools are appreciated by the children and their parents is evidenced by the marvelously increasing attendance during the four years that they have been open, and the large number of disappointed applicants that cannot be admitted to the indoor schools for lack of accommodations.

In the opinion of men at the public hearing who are intimately acquainted with child life, and who are at present devoting their entire time to the problems of elementary education, these vacation schools ought to develop, as fast as conditions warrant, into outdoor schools pure and simple, with every opportunity for active, wholesome play and invigorating games, and with special attention given to nature studies—the grasses, shrubs, trees, birds, fishes, insects, etc.—and the present indoor schools, savoring so strongly of the regular curriculum, practically abandoned. A sharper contrast should be made between the regular schools and the vacation schools, and this can be best attained by a constantly broadening use of our exceptionally attractive and diversified parks. With a summer spent under such favorable conditions the children would return to the serious work of the public schools strengthened physically and mentally by their out-door life, and better prepared for the strain of the new school year.

These educators feel, and your committee concurs with them, that the true relation of vacation schools to the public school system has not yet been determined, and the wisdom of grafting them with that system, which is not at all necessary to insure their continuance is seriously questioned. They are not schools within a reasonable interpretation of the statutes outlining our present public school system, and the question naturally arises as to the power of the City to incorporate them into that system prior to the enactment of permissive statutes. At various times in the past the public school system has been broadened by the addition of kindergartens, manual training courses, evening schools and high schools, but in each case permission statutes were first passed and unless it is clear that these schools, in which children are taught entertaining and healthful games, and are led to observe and analyze nature, are directly or by implication entitled to be regarded as a part of the system authorized by statute, it would seem that permissive legislation might be necessary prior to their being grafted onto that system. The powers of the board of school visitors might also need to be enlarged so as to meet the new conditions thus presented.

For the foregoing reasons your committee is of the opinion that these schools should not at the present time be made a part of the public school system. If, however, the City elects to maintain them in the future, as in the past, we respectfully suggest, inasmuch as your honorable body has a joint standing committee on education, which is competent to assume the direction of these schools, that they be placed in its hands with power to the committee to enlarge itself by calling to its membership members of the Civic Club, park commissioners, principals of schools and such other parties as your honorable body would suggest.

The following resolution was offered and after a brief debate adopted:

*Be it resolved*, That the sum of \$2,000 be and it is hereby appropriated for the use of the committee herein constituted, for the purpose of maintaining during the summer of 1901 the vacation schools hitherto carried on by the Civic Club of this City and be it further

*Resolved*, That the control, management and operations of said vacation schools during said period shall be in charge of a committee to be composed as follows: The Committee of the Court of Common Council on Education, the Mayor, two members of the

said Civic Club, to be appointed by said club, two principals of the District Schools to be appointed by the Board of School Visitors, one member of the Board of Park Commissioners, to be appointed by the Board of Park Commissioners.

The above resolutions were adopted by the unanimous vote of the Court of Common Council.

The \$2,000 appropriated by the Court of Common Council has been expended to pay the expenses of the Vacation Schools, the Reading Room and the Playground at Riverside Park, benefiting thereby over 2,300 children. The Playgrounds at Pope Park were maintained by the South School District, the Kindergarten at Riverside Park through the generosity of Mrs. Henry Ferguson, the Hartford Civic Camp by the ladies of the Civic Club, and the School gardens by the Rev. Francis Goodwin.

To the faithful and enthusiastic work of the superintendents and teachers we owe the great success of the Vacation Schools this year and the committee wishes to express its appreciation of their zeal in the good work.

Your Committee has taken the liberty of incorporating in the report interesting accounts of other branches of work done in the City to ameliorate the sufferings of the children housed in the crowded tenements during the hot summer months.

We know that all who are interested in charitable work will find them interesting and instructive reading.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES G. STONE, Chairman.

ALFRED P. CLIFFORD,

HOWARD A. CAMP,

ALEXANDER HARBISON,

LUCY A. PERKINS,

ANNIE E. TRUMBULL,

CHARLES L. AMES,

WILBUR F. GORDY,

WILLIS I. TWITCHELL,

*Vacation Schools Committee.*

## REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE VACATION SCHOOLS.

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*To the Vacation Schools Committee:*

GENTLEMEN:—I herewith submit my report on vacation schools for the summer of 1901.

An appropriation of two thousand dollars by the Court of Common Council of Hartford, Conn. enabled the vacation school committee to open eight rooms in the Brown School, four rooms in the Second North, and three rooms in the Charter Oak School; also reading rooms in the Brown, Second North, Charter Oak and Arsenal Schools; and playgrounds in the Brown, Charter Oak, Arsenal school districts, and in Riverside Park.

These departments were in session from July 1st to August 9th a term of six weeks.

Two days per week were devoted to exercises in Riverside park, two days to schoolroom occupations, and one day to outings to places of interest in the city, viz.:—Trinity College Natural History building, the Atheneum, Ancient cemetery, Colt Memorial House, Bushnell park, and the State Capitol.

On the day following the visit an oral account was given by the children. The older pupils wrote interesting essays. (See specimen essays at end of report.) The outings were enjoyable to all.

“Hartford Day.” An exhibition of the regular daily school work was given by delegations of pupils from all schools. Mayor

Harbison and General Dwight addressed the children in a most interesting and instructive manner.

"Picnic Day" at Riverside park was enjoyed by one thousand regular pupils. Refreshments were served to all present including the park kindergarten pupils.

At our closing day exercises an exhibition of work done during the term was given for the benefit of parents and friends who were present in large numbers. They expressed an appreciation of, and an interest in vacation schools.

Our subjects for study were, patriotism, the seasons, and special days, such as bird day, birthdays of noted men, etc. There were simple oral and written language lessons correlated with the clay, paper, painting and crayon work.

Manual training and military drill proved very attractive to the boys, and the girls showed deep interest in their sewing and and raffia lessons.

Music and story-telling were appreciated.

At the hall exercises daily talks on ethics were given. Sand tables representing city, country, and Indian life, gave pleasure and instruction to young and old.

Our reading rooms are of great importance. They accommodate children who can not spare time to attend the main schools, and the many for whom we have no seats in our school-rooms.

Our playgrounds accommodate younger children who can not be admitted to the school rooms. We have no age limit. Our oldest visitors are mothers, and older boys and girls, our youngest are babies.

In the playgrounds games are played and incidental observation lessons are given.

Our scholars attended school regularly. They were good and appreciative.

The teachers were loyal and faithful.

A weekly teachers' meeting gave system, harmony and enthusiasm to the work.

To Mr. C. G. Stone, chairman of the Vacation Schools Committee, for his efficient help and advice; to the other members of the committee, and to Miss Lucy Perkins and Miss Annie E. Trumbull who for five years have given time and thought to the work, I would most earnestly and heartily give thanks, hereby assuring them that their hearty co-operation has enabled teachers and superintendent to bring to a successful close the work of 1901.

FRANCESCA A. HENKE, *Superintendent.*

	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901
Number of schools,	1	2	2	4	4
Number of playgrounds,	0	0	1	3	4
Number of reading-rooms,	0	1	1		4
Session of schools,	6 wks.	6 wks.	6 wks.	6 wks.	6 wks.
Number of teachers,	5	13	19	29	30
Number of scholars in main schools,	150	500	700	998	1131
Number of scholars in reading-rooms,	0	about 30	150	281	318
Number of scholars in playgrounds,	0	0	300	970	875
Number of janitors,	1	2	2	4	4
Cost, money contributed by	Civic Club, \$500.00 C C. & friends \$1500.00 City, 300.00 \$1387.72. \$1900. \$2000.				
Cost per child per day, (vacation school),	\$ .11	\$ .10	\$ .07	\$ .05	\$ .05
Cost per child per day, (reading-rooms),	0	0	0	\$ .004	\$ .004
Cost per child per day, (playgrounds),	0	0	\$ .02	.008	.007
Total, (number of pupils),	150	530	1,150	2,249	2,324

## PRIZE ESSAYS.

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Some of the essays which received prizes at the close of the vacation schools, in the Brown and Second North School buildings, are printed below exactly as they were written, with possibly a missing letter supplied now and then. They show that the children have learned to use their eyes and apply what they have heard or read in school to what they see in the outside world :

By LEWIS GROSS.

On Wednesday morning, July 24, the pupils from rooms 19 and 20 of the Brown School with the two teachers, Miss Davis and Miss Pinney visited the most interesting and important things at the capitol and on Bushunel Park.

First we went to the pond on Bushunel Park where we saw the pond half full of Egyptian lotus Plants.

From there we went to the Memorial Arch, which was erected June 1885 in memory of the 4000 brave soldiers of Hartford who fought to save the union during the Civil War.

The next thing we saw was the Corning Fountaiñ with the four Indian statues upon it. The first Indian is watching a white man as he approches him, the second Indian is ready to kill the pale-faces with his tomahawk, the third Indian has the pipe of peace in his hand ready to become a friend to the white men, while the fourth Indian is ready to put his spur into a fish so both the Indians and pale faces won't starve from hunger.

We went into the Capitol and on the first floor we saw the "Godess of Liberty," Figure head from the flag-ship Hartford, Governor Buckingham who was Governor of Connecticut during the Civil War, and General Hale's statue. On the second floor we went into the secretary of state's office and saw the duplicate charter of Connecticut, the house of representatives, the Senate chamber, and the buttons which the people of Connecticut had collected.

LEWIS GROSS,  
Brown School.

## ANNIE BASSEL.

Dear Miss Henky, I will tell you all the things I saw when we went to the Capitol.

I saw the fountain, I saw a heart crossing a ford. I saw some Indian statues on the fountain. I saw some old flags. I saw some strings of buttons, some were as big as a saucer. There were all kinds of buttons big and small. I saw some beautiful flowers on the way to the Capitol. I saw a statue of Columbus. I saw a kanon. I saw some beautiful chairs. I saw the statue of Mr. Longfellow.

There was a man named Mr. Bushnell. When he owned the park it was derty. An old lady lived there. Mr. Bushnell asked the lady to sell the house. She said, "I wouldn't sell this house untill I die."

I saw the statue of Nathan Haill. It said on the statue, I give my life to the country.

ANNIE BASSEL,

Brown School.

9 years old.

## From AUGUSTA MICHAEL.

My dear Miss Henke,

I was very glad to go to the Anthuniem it was one of the best houses I ever saw. I saw a great many beautiful pictures. I saw pictures of the Revolutionary war. They were put in great frames. I saw the picture of Benjeman West he was one of the men who painted some pictures in the Athuniem. I saw two statues one of Apolo the lord of the silver bow. The other of his wife with an apple in her hand. I saw the picture of Jesus Christ. Then I went in the other room and I saw a great many things. I saw the picture of the Charter Oak tree. I saw the things that they had in war. I saw swords, guns, knifes, spoons, combs, and a great many other things. I saw soldiers' hats and clothings. I saw cannons and a peice of wood that came off of a ship. I saw a chest that the May-flower brought over to America. I saw some kinds of money. Some money Brazil, Portugal, America, Spain and other kinds. I saw a great many kinds of stone clubs that the Indians had. I saw dresses that the women used to wear slippers all trimed with flowers. Then I went down stairs and saw a great many things. I saw a little Indian baby all dressed up.

I saw about six chairs. I saw some revolvers, very nice looking things. I saw some Indians dress and clothing I saw some queer looking shoes the Indians had. I saw some beads the Indians had, and they called it wampum. Then we went in another room and we saw the men reading. I was very quite in there and I took a book and began to read.

Then we went into the grave yard to see if we could find the grave of Thomas Hooker one of ore brave men.

Your loving pupil,

AUGUSTA MICHAEL.

North School.

HARRY MARQUARDT.

I went to the Trinity College with the teachers. We went down Washington Street and met at the corner of Washington and Vernon Streets. Then we went to the college. The natural history building. I saw sceletons of a walrus, alligaitor and of many other things. Then went into the basement and saw fishes of all kinds. There were snaping-turtles, mud-turtles, spotted striped turtles, bull-frogs, bull-heads. And there was two or three horse-shoe crabs. There were three sparrow-hawks. On the first flight there was a big piece of gold. The copper ore, granite, marble and many other kinds of stones. Birds eggs, nests, snakes. When I was coming home I found a brown thrush in the grass and I let it go again. We saw a gold nugget.

HARRY MARQUARDT,

Brown Sbhool.

ALICE HINMAN.

My Dear Miss Henke :—One of the most interesting places I have ever visited during my vacation was to Trinity College. It is a beautiful walk and we went with Miss Patterson. The walk was very, very long and we were all tired out when we got there. After a little rest we went up to the third floor in which we looked down from a little opening and there was a terrible monster. After we took the west side of the building and saw some beautiful stones. We were all curious enough to ask where they all came from them. Very few children looked at the pictures on the wall but my curiosity prompted me to look and see what they were about. One of them was what the world was supposed to be before man was

created. After we descended the stairs in which we were on the second floor. We looked down through the open space in which the monster looked bigger. We took a walk around in which my eye caught to a bright material. It was a beautiful piece of gold which we were told come from the Ural mountains in Siberia. Butterflies were something lovely. They were of green, some were of black and gold. After we descended the stairs and come to the first floor the monster was the attractive. It was the skeleton of a dragon we had a very long time ago. The skeleton were terrible creatures. They were some of men and cows and of all things. We now went into the basement in which we saw live snakes. Some were little fellows and some were big ones. The turtles were of different kind and the muskrat. In one part of the basement the most beautiful and magnificent piece of work that I think would ever be combined. It was of a water work like and on the top was the most beautiful rainbow. In the bottom of this was stones burning away. After we went into the room we had our rest, formed in line and marched home. We had our tired walk home now, because when we are going to see something we are not tired going but when we have had the pleasure we wanted it is very tired to get home. We ought to thank our teachers for their kindness to bring us to such nice places.

Yours truly,

ALICE HINMAN,

North School.

## REPORT OF THE SUPERVISOR OF READING ROOMS.

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*To the Vacation School Committee of the Common Council :*

GENTLEMEN :—I hereby present the following report of the reading-rooms opened in connection with the vacation schools of last July and August.

Four reading-rooms were opened on the first of July in connection with the vacation schools in the Arsenal, Charter Oak, Brown and North districts.

The hours and superintendents as finally arranged, were Brown School, 9 to 11 a. m., Miss Annie Fisher; North School, 9 to 10, Miss Elizabeth Mack; Arsenal School, 11 to 12, Miss Elizabeth Mack.

The attendance in the Charter Oak district reading-room was so small that the principal of the school thought it best to admit all the children who went to it as regular pupils, and so many of the readers in the Brown School asked that their room might be kept opened two hours instead of one that the request was granted. In addition the expenses of a reading-room in the Washington Street School were paid by Mrs. Henry Ferguson, and Miss Edna Kibbe was placed in charge. In the Brown school and North school reading-rooms it was understood that regular reading-room attendants were to be chosen to fill vacancies in the schools in preference to other children.

The simple rules of the reading-rooms, written on a black-board, are :

Every one who comes to this reading-room

Has clean hands.

May take one book a day.

May go when tired.

May reserve a book until the next day.

Is quiet in hall and yard.

The attendance was

	Boys.	Attendances.	Girls.	Attendances.
Arsenal,	61	183	51	221
Brown,	66	210	18	45
North,	90	223	32	58
	—	—	—	—
	217	616	101	324
Washington Street,	28	43	37	74
	—	—	—	—
	245	659	138	398
Total number of children,	.	.	.	383
" " " attendances,	.	.	.	1,057

Average of nearly 3 to a child.

The largest number of times when one child was present was 21. The ages of the children ranged from five to sixteen, and some of them came from long distances out of the districts.

The expense of the reading rooms is very small. It is important that whoever is in charge of them should have had some public library experience in order to understand how to keep order and enforce the few rules. There are always extra assistants who are employed by the hour in the Hartford Public Library and have time to spare for such work as this. The total cost of the three reading rooms paid out of the Vacation School fund was forty dollars, and the books came back in good condition.

The regular attendants in the reading rooms were invited through the courtesy of Miss Henke to a Vacation School picnic in Riverside Park, and adorned with scarlet badges inscribed R. R. R. (Reading Room Regulars) and marshalled by the attendants in charge, took their places with the other children to receive the buns, lemonade, and other adjuncts of the feast.

In the Brown School, Miss Fisher offered a prize for the best essay on a book which had been read in the reading room during the summer. It was awarded to Isaac Rugatsky for an account of Henty's "Cornet of Horse," a story of the wars on the continent of Europe early in the eighteenth century.

Respectfully submitted,

CAROLINE M. HEWINS,

*Librarian, Hartford Public Library.*

November 4, 1901.

REPORT OF H. A. CAMP, TREASURER  
VACATION SCHOOLS COMMITTEE  
FOR THE YEAR 1901.

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RECEIPTS.

City Treasurer,	.	.	.	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
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DISBURSEMENTS.

Teachers,	.	.	.	\$1,725.00	
Janitors and helpers,	.	.	.	81.00	
Supplies,	.	.	.	91.22	
Picnic expenses,	.	.	.	78.00	
Incidentals,	.	.	.	16.59	
Balance returned to City Treasurer,	.	.	.	8.19	\$2,000.00

HARTFORD, CONN., Oct. 5, 1901.

I hereby certify that I have examined the report of the Treasurer of the Vacation School Committee, compared it with the vouchers and find it correct.

CHAS. H. ROBINS,

*City Auditor.*

PARK RIVER AND BANKSIDE GROVE—Pope Park.





## VACATION SCHOOLS AT POPE PARK.

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Conducted by the South School District.

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HARTFORD, CONN., November 6, 1901.

MR. C. G. STONE, Chairman,  
Hartford, Conn.

DEAR SIR:

As an experiment the Committee of the South School District opened the Lawrence Street School buildings July 15, 1901, for the benefit of the children in that vicinity as a rallying point, to have a vacation school, devoted to play, and to use Pope Park as a playground. The Committee were very ably and cheerfully aided in their efforts by the Board of Park Commissioners, who at once had swings, sand boxes, etc., located in the park, to the pleasure of the teachers and children. Mr. Wirth, Superintendent of Parks, did all in his power to help the Committee. The results of this experiment to entertain the children were satisfactory, and leads the Committee to suggest that in the summer vacation of 1902 the Lawrence Street School building may be profitably used for vacation schools. The teachers who so cheerfully aided the Committee are of the same mind as the Committee, i. e., that any vacation school given wholly to play is not wholly a success, but needs some discipline and attention besides, and think this can be maintained by some study combined

with play. Pope Park is admirably situated for use as a play-ground, and we hope may be of more use year by year.

To the teachers who aided, and really had the matter in hand, Miss Mary E. Tuite, Miss Nellie B. Hogan, Miss Mabel N. Storrs, and their assistants,—Miss Carney and Miss Landrigan,—we are under great obligations for their care, attention and entertainment of the children.

As an experiment the play-school was a success, and is worthy of more encouragement than this report shows.

We received commendation and good wishes from many, and had the aid of every one of whom we made the slightest request. We submit the report of the teachers with this communication.

Very respectfully,

HENRY C. DWIGHT,

P. HANSLING, JR.,

CHARLES G. HUNTINGTON,

*District Committee.*

GENTLEMEN:—July 15, 1901, five hundred children in the locality of the Lawrence Street School assembled in the basement of the school building. At nine o'clock the children accompanied by their teachers marched to Pope Park. Swings, hammocks, May-poles and sand boxes were provided for the amusement of the children.

The play-ground was in session four weeks. The attendance at first was large, but towards the close there was a gradual falling off. This was due to a lack of interest resulting from the monotony of all play and no work.

We have concluded from our experience of last summer that more benefit would be derived from a Vacation School than a Play-Ground.

MARY E. TUI'E,  
NELLIE M. HOGAN,  
MABELLE N. STORRS.

*Teachers.*

## REPORT ON THE SCHOOL GARDENS.

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Two years ago the experiment of a boy's garden was tried with nine little Italians twelve years of age from the Morgan St. Sunday School.

Mr. Parker let us have a piece of land in Keney Park. Each boy contributed 50 cents towards the cost of operating the gardens, worked his plot, took what he grew home and as we remember it now only one boy failed to keep his land fairly clear of weeds.

The work was enough of a success so that early the next year applications for plots began to come in. The next year there were fourteen boys, some of them from outside the Morgan St. Sunday School, and the parents of the children came out and helped, but this did not work well. In fact at the end of the year we realized that while gardens for grown people might be a success they must be entirely separate from those for children.

The plan for this year early in the Spring was presented to the Rev. Francis Goodwin and later to the members of the Civic Club, substantially as it has been carried out. Mr. Goodwin had already felt that this work should be enlarged over last year, and with his promise of the aid of the School of Horticulture of which he is President of the Board of Trustees and Mr. Hemenway is principal, we laid the plan before Principals Twitchell, Gordy and Brackett. They approved and the project was outlined to the upper-grade boys of the Second North, Arsenal and North East

Schools with a result of some seventy applications for admission to the garden class. Thirty-four of these boys were selected and it is of our experience with these that the remainder of this report will deal.

#### Cost.

Plowing, harrowing and manuring the land,	.	.	\$16.00
Plants and seeds,	.	.	15.00
Tools,	.	.	10.00
Paper, pencils and incidentals,	.	.	7.00
			—————
Total,	.	.	\$48.00

The tools will last indefinitely, so that the cost of the same experiment another year would be but \$38.00. Including the tools, the expense per boy was about \$1.25. Excluding cost of tools the expense per boy has been about \$1.00. These expenses have all been met by Mr. Francis Goodwin. Of course these figures do not include the salary of an instructor or cost of renting the land, but they do include all else.

#### Each Garden-plot.

was 4 x 25 feet. This may seem small but we found it large enough for the time the boys had. The following list is an average statement of the results from each plot.

Lettuce,	15 heads
Radishes,	250 roots
Beets,	20 roots
Wax beans,	8 quarts
Shell beans,	6 quarts

Squashes,	10
Corn,	18 ears
Verbenas	1000 blossoms

The pinks failed in some gardens; the flowers picked ran from none to thirty. The musk melons and water melons likewise failed in some gardens. The number of the former picked ran from none to six, the latter from none to four.

#### Attendance.

There were nineteen lessons between May 1st and September 7th. The average of attendance was for sixteen of these, or 84 per cent. Of the thirty-four gardens, 25 or about 75 per cent. remained throughout the season in the hands of the original holders. Of the nine remaining gardens, six changed hands once and three twice.

#### Age.

The age of the boys was from 12 to 15½, the average age being 13½ years.

#### Nationality.

Every boy is American born and with pronounced American sympathies. It took some urging on our part to get them to give their descent, with the following results:

American 28, Irish 10, German 5, English 3. One boy has written in his book that he is of Catholic descent. Of those dropping out except for going to work, five are American descent, four Irish and one English.

### Excuses for Dropping.

The twelve boys who dropped out of the nine gardens which changed hands gave as excuses:

Too far from home,	6
Got tired,	3
Went to work,	2
Missed dinner,	1

—

12

### Records.

Every boy has kept a record-book containing a record of his attendance, an outline of his plot with the relative position of his plantings, and notes on each day's lesson.

### Interest.

The interest which the boys have shown has surprised all connected with the gardens. Many of the boys have regularly been out to look at their plots between lessons and practically all the boys instead of working the allotted one hour have spent two or three hours of each Saturday P. M., on their gardens. Only one boy has had to be watched to see that he did his work up before going home.

We have had to reprimand but two boys for disorderly behavior, once apiece. We have not had to urge the boys to do their work. There has been no restraint whatever placed upon them. As we promised the Civic Club in the Spring, the boys have made play of the work, apparently enjoying it as much as they would enjoy baseball or any other game.

### Improvement.

The improvement in the boys is noticeable. They are less dependent upon instruction, and seem to have learned to think for themselves to a large extent. We have tried to teach them to use their eyes and hands and head all at once, and I think many of them are surprised and pleased at the results.

Mr. Gordy of the Second North School and Mr. B. N. Strong of the Arsenal School have agreed that the study records of the boys in the School Garden Class, shall, at the end of the coming year, be carefully compared with their previous records that we may discover if any improvement, other than that which we should naturally expect, has taken place as a result of the School garden training. It is possible that the result of this will be interesting and instructive.

Rev. Francis Goodwin has paid the cost of the garden-work, this year. The Civic Club gave \$25 in prizes for the best flowers and vegetables grown. Mrs. Henry Ferguson bore the expenses of giving the exhibition of what the boys had grown, which was held in Good Will Hall, September 14th.

Respectfully submitted,

STEWART N. DUNNING,  
H. D. HEMENWAY.

## FRESH AIR EXCURSIONS.

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"*The Courant*" fresh air fund excursions were more numerous, successful and popular last season than ever before and the amount contributed to the fund by the kind-hearted people of this City was larger than ever. The total amount subscribed (including about \$90 left over from last year) was \$1,198.61, which exceeds by nearly \$150 the amount subscribed any other year. During the season there were fourteen excursions, nine to Rainbow Park and five to Suburban Park. Forty-six cars were used to transport the happy companies and 3,055 substantial lunches were served. In addition to this there were 4,860 five-cent tickets distributed in families that were prevented by sickness from participating in the regular excursions and for giving to the sick and aged day's trips into the country on one or another of the trolley lines. In all something over 4,000 people were beneficiaries of the fund. The Hartford Street Railway Company furnished the tickets at a discount of one-third from the regular rate and both this company and the Farmington Street Railway Company furnished cars at a liberal discount from regular prices. The lunches, which were satisfactory in every way, were furnished by Snow & Vernon at Rainbow Park and by C. A. Hackney at Suburban Park.

All the excursions were conducted and all the tickets distributed by the regular charity organizations of the City and all the people concerned are under obligations to Dr. David L. Green of the

Charity Organization Society, B.N.B. Miller of the Open Hearth, Mrs. Sluyter and Mrs. Ayres of the Union for Home Work, Miss Mary Hall of the Good Will Club, Miss Hadley of the "Shelter" and the large number of ladies and gentlemen who acted as their assistants, for the excellent management and great amount of work done in their efforts to make the outings successful and happy occasions. The expenses for the season were \$1,132.92, which leaves a balance of \$65.69 for another year.

**MAPLE GROVE—Riverside Park.**



Maple Grove, in Riverside Park, may very appropriately be called "The Children's Playground, for it is a resort much in favor with the younger generation. Within the grove have been placed swings, a may-pole, and various devices in which children particularly delight.



## REPORT OF THE KINDERGARTEN AT RIVERSIDE PARK.

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Two years ago it seemed desirable to establish a Kindergarten at Riverside Park, as it was found that the younger children of the neighborhood were quite unable to make use of the opportunities for fresh air and recreation on account of the older children, who either occupied all the desirable space and took possession of the provision made in the Park for children's recreation or intentionally frightened and annoyed the little ones. The single policeman in the Park was quite unable to exercise such constant supervision as would be necessary to give the little children a chance there. For this reason an enclosure was provided by the Park Board and an experienced Kindergarten teacher placed in charge, whose salary was paid by private effort.

The first year it was opened only in the morning, but that seemed so insufficient that in the summer of 1901 there were two sessions held daily for eleven weeks, the teacher taking charge both in the morning and afternoon, with a pupil teacher as assistant, and much voluntary help from ladies and young girls interested in caring for the children. The first year 150 were enrolled and the average attendance was about 60. The second year 700 were enrolled and the average attendance was 160.

The expenses of conducting the school the second summer were as follows :

Salary of Mrs. Doolittle and her assistants, eleven weeks at \$14.00,	.....	\$154.00
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Crackers (three and one-half barrels), . . . . .	\$8.35
Three dozen cups and paddles, . . . . .	.28
Thirteen hammocks \$5.98, rope .10, . . . . .	6.08
Peanuts, . . . . .	2.00
Postage, . . . . .	.28
 Total, . . . . .	 \$173.59
Received from Mrs. Ferguson, . . . . .	\$200.00
Returned to Mrs. Ferguson, . . . . .	26.41
 \$200.00	 \$200.00
The average cost per day was, . . . . .	\$3.10
The average attendance being one hundred and sixty, the daily cost for each child was, . . . . .	.0197
The total cost for the term for one hundred and sixty children in constant attendance was for each child, . . . . .	1.08

The Kindergarten teacher reports that upon the opening day in 1901 many children who had attended the previous year were eager to be admitted to the grounds, the morning attendance being 152 and the afternoon attendance 121. The early hours of each morning were devoted to special Kindergarten work, Games, Songs and Stories and after that the children played in the sand boxes or on the parallel bars, in swings and hammocks. Each morning a lunch was served, between three and four barrels of crackers being required for the term.

In the afternoon, the mothers with their babies visited the Park and found pleasure and benefit in being there. On one of the warmest mornings, a mother brought her baby, only a few months old, very sick with Cholera Morbus. The doctors had

told her that unless the child could get some sleep it would certainly die. The baby had been unable to sleep in the conditions that prevailed at its home, but upon being placed in one of the hammocks it soon fell asleep and had a long nap. The baby was brought again in the afternoon and for several days thereafter, its out of door naps supplementing the doctors' medicine and resulting in its getting well. The mother could not say enough of her gratitude for this opportunity for giving the child the fresh air which at that time was necessary to its existence.

In order that the term might be closed with an event a little out of the ordinary daily routine, and as a special treat to those who had been in regular attendance, a peanut picnic was arranged and about two hundred bags of peanuts were distributed, much to the delight of the recipients.

In closing this report it is only fair to mention that the member of the Board of Park Commissioners having Riverside Park in charge, Mr. Patrick Garvan, has been exceedingly kind and helpful in promoting the work of the school in many ways.

Mr. Gaghan, the attendant at the park, has rendered valuable assistance in maintaining order and looking after the safety of the children.

A number of ladies have volunteered their assistance in the Kindergarten work, and the school has been of great interest to many who have taken occasion to visit it. That it has proved its value and right to continuous future maintenance seems to have been fully established beyond the shadow of a doubt by the results obtained and the evident advantages to the children brought within its influence.

## THE CIVIC CLUB CAMP.

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Conducted by Miss Ella Parish.

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The Civic Club Camp has been in existence for several years, and has been very satisfactory to those concerned. It has been almost entirely self-supporting, and has only been connected with the City in that it was organized by a public school teacher and was composed of scholars attending the public schools.

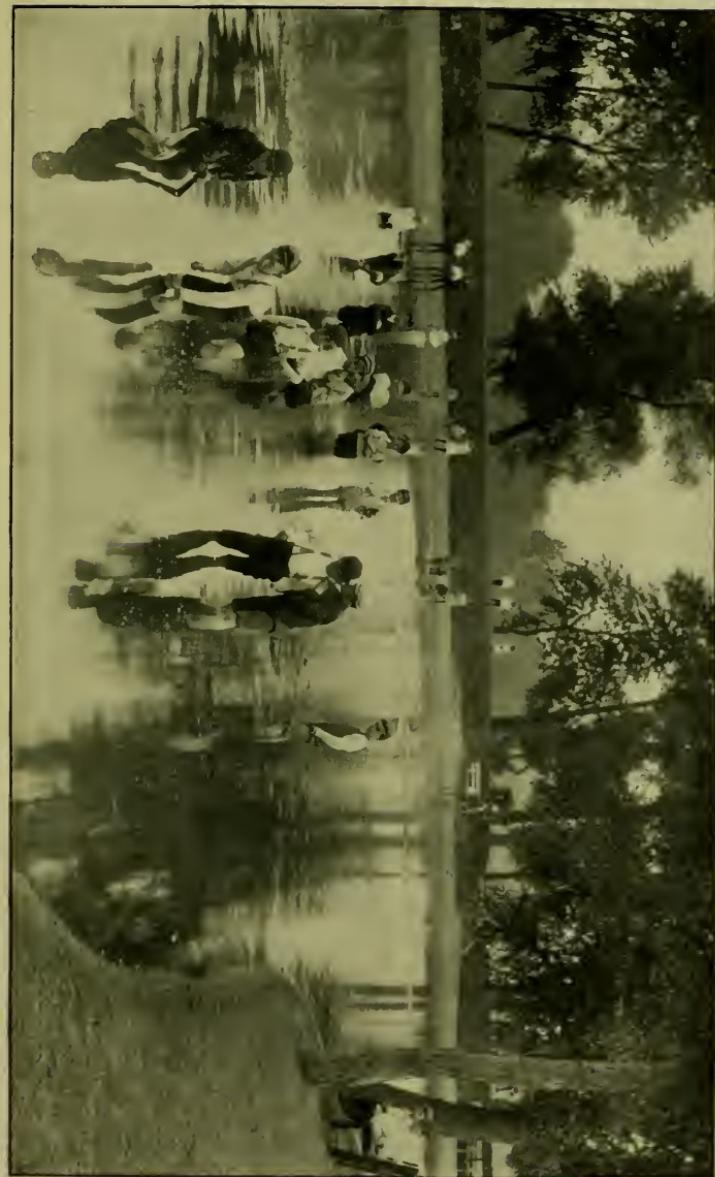
The boys have largely earned the money for their summer expenses. The teacher has not only given her services but has also contributed money for incidental expenses, when necessary.

The ladies connected with the Civic Club have paid the expenses of a cook for the camp, and for a "Boy President" who has taken charge of the boys sports and their excursions.

The establishment of this camp was the result of an observation of the teacher in regard to the condition of the children at the end of the summer vacation. Instead of coming back to school strengthened in mind and body, she found them languid and inert, and she felt that the long vacation should produce better results. She then decided she would devote her summers to this purpose.

The first year a number of children organized in the winter and arranged their plans under her direction. She had the loan of a deserted farm house, and put in her own furniture, only the

## THE CHILDREN'S WADING POOL.—Riverside Park.



Near Maple Grove, in Riverside Park, is the Children's Wading Pool, where on a warm summer's day the little folk delight to wade and splash about. Here are sometimes fought little battles, and while the struggles and achievements of the miniature fleets do not go down in history, they appear to be

wading Pool, where on a warm summer's day the little folk delight to wade and splash about. Here are sometimes fought little battles, and while the struggles and achievements of the miniature fleets do not go down in history, they appear to be



very simplest furniture being needed. The boys went out in relays of ten or fifteen each and stayed three weeks at a time.

The second summer was divided between sets of boys and girls each set taking their turn.

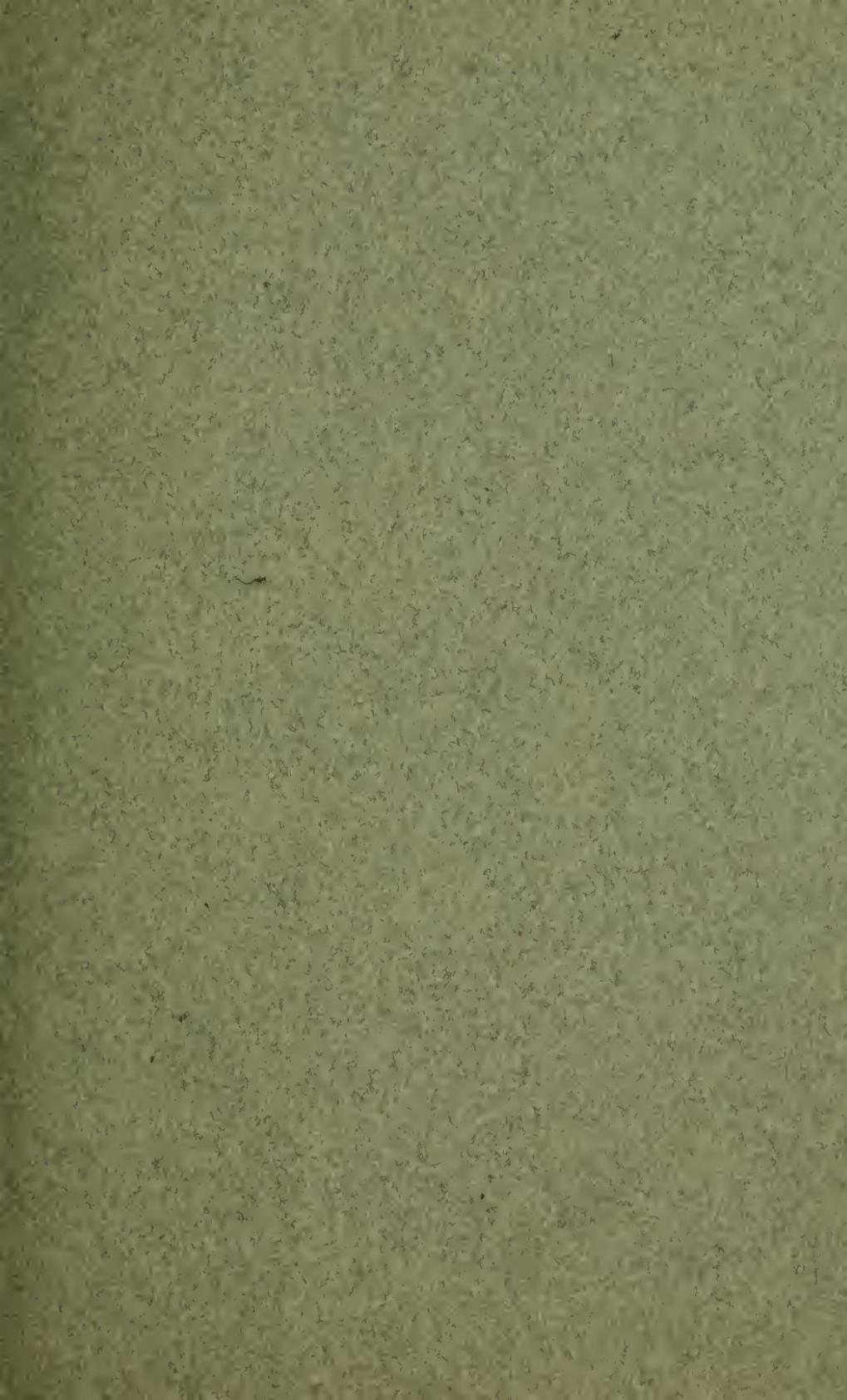
The third year it was decided to devote the whole summer to one set of boys so that a party of twenty boys spent the whole summer with her in Chateaugay, N. Y. They helped in providing for the house and carrying it on in the morning, attending to supplies of fuel, water and milk, and in the afternoon devoted themselves to athletic sports of various kinds, winning baseball matches and participating in other games. They also went out on walking excursions, some of the older boys went even as far as Montreal, making most of the journey on foot. The younger boys making the same trip by train. The whole summer proved to be extremely satisfactory, and the boys have decidedly gained in strength and development of body and mind as shown in their school work this winter, as the result of the energetic recreation that they provided for themselves with the assistance of their teacher. They intend to continue this, and hope by sending in this report to the City Committee on Vacation Schools to encourage others to organize in the same way to obtain for themselves the same delightful variety of entertainment that these boys have been able to bring into their summer vacations.

This educational effort is largely self-supporting but requires an annual subsidy of \$130.00. This pays for a cook and a captain, each receiving \$5.00 per week, and a few incidental expenses. This money has been provided by members of the Civic Club. All other expenses are paid by the boys themselves or their

parents. Most of the Winter is devoted to earning enough to pay railroad fare and \$2.00 per week for board during the outing.

Respectfully submitted,

E. J. FERGUSON.







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